

Thermal Weapon Sight

Description

The Thermal Weapon Sight (TWS) is a lightweight, low-power, high-performance, forward-looking infrared device that will augment existing crew-served night vision sights. TWS does not rely on visible light for operation and is virtually unaffected by weather and obscurants (both natural and manmade). The TWS operates by discerning the temperature variation between targets and their background. It is completely passive and, although designed for target detection and engagement with Marine Corps crew-served weapons, can be used for all-weather surveillance.



Operational Impact

The 24-hour capability of the TWS significantly enhances the Marine Corps day- and night-fighting capability through improved target detection and engagement. The system can “see” through obscurants (such as sand, dust, or fog) that impair

sighting systems operating in the visible and near-visible spectrum. The TWS has the ability to acquire targets under most atmospheric conditions at ranges, which are comparable to the maximum effective ranges of the weapon system with which it is employed.

Program Status

The U.S. Army—the lead service for the TWS program—and the Marine Corps successfully completed separate operational test and evaluations in 2000 and 2001, which led to a procurement decision in July 2001. The Marine Corps will exercise an option on the Omnibus contract and procure 3,542 medium TWSs, or MTWSs, and 1,793 heavy TWS, or HTWSs. As of May 2004, 2,123 MTWSs have been fielded to meet Fleet Marine Force (FMF) requirements.

Procurement Profile:	FY 05	FY 06
Quantity:	900	1,000
Developer/Manufacturer:	Raytheon Systems Company, Dallas, TX	